CUSICK/GARDINER C&H ALLOTMENT

NEWPORT RANGER DISTRICT
COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

Plan prepared by Dana R Poucher — Other Resources Assistant — 8/25/80 Date

Plan accepted by Clay Logue — Clay Logue, Permittee — Date

John Fountain — John Fountain, Permittee — Date

Plan recommended by George S Lunsford — District Ranger — 8-29-80 Date

Plan approved by Lowell Oliverson — Acting Forest Supervisor — 12-29-80 Date

I. INTRODUCTION

The management plan for the Cusick/Gardiner C&H Allotment is based upon the objectives and decisions made in the environmental assessment prepared for the Cusick/Gardiner Allotment. Copies are on file at the Supervisor's Office, Colville National Forest and Newport Ranger Station, Newport, Washington. Field work was completed by Cindy Talbott, Newport Ranger District's Range Conservationist and Eric Colter, a seasonal employee studying range management in his senior year at Washington State University. The field work was completed during the summer of 1979. The management plan was written by David Poucher (Other Resource Assistant, Newport Ranger District) with cooperation given by the allotment permittees, Clay Logue and Jack Fountain. This plan will describe in detail the short term objectives for the allotment. The long term goal is to make Cusick/Gardiner a pasture within the Ruby Creek allotment. Implementation of the long term objective may take six to ten years.

II. OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives were developed by the District interdisciplinary team for the environmental assessment.

A. Keep Gardiner pasture within the allotment. Grazing of cattle will continue in the Gardiner pasture. Gardiner pasture supports 14 AUM's.

B. Cattle grazing will not damage wildlife winter range in T34N, R43E, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 in such that cattle will not graze this area.

C. The water quality of Gardiner Creek will not be degraded because of cattle grazing. The water quality and quantity monitoring

station 21006210 just below the Forest boundary will be monitored.

D. The economic stability of the permittees will be insured. This management system will support the existing term numbers fifty eight (58). There will be no added capital improvements that the permittee will have to share in or maintain.

E. Obtain management level D (FRES) for the Cusick/Gardiner Allotment. Long range management goals are to make Cusick/Gardiner a pasture within the Ruby allotment.

F. Grazing use will normally begin on June 1 and end September 30 based on range readiness and utilization.

III. ACTION

A. Permitted Use and Grazing Capacity

Fifty eight head of cattle will be grazed on this allotment from approximately June 1 to September 30.

The majority of the available range was created by man's activities. The Forest Service acquired the land during the 1930's under the resettlement act. The largest single grazing producing area is the Bell Boundary powerline which was cleared in 1963. The right-of-way was seeded with blue grass, red top, timothy, and clover. The open dry slopes are covered with pine grass. Both permittees have expressed an interest in grazing only on National Forest land, not on private land within the allotment.

Estimated Grazing Capacity

Pasture	Type	Acres	Lb/Ac.	Proper Use	AUM's
Gardiner	clearcuts	67	500	.20	7
	timbered	79	300	.30	7

Pasture	Type	Acres	Lb/Ac.	Proper Use	AUM's
Cusick	riparian	125	800	.60	60
	powerline	175	1400	.50	123
	moist meadow	31	1800	.70	39
	dry meadow	27	1000	.50	14
					250

Two hundred fifty AUM's will allow 63 head for a four month season.

One thousand pounds of feed was used to estimate an AUM.

Following is a breakdown of AUM's by land ownership. Only primary range was considered in determining this breakdown.

Landowner	Total Acres	Suitable Range Ac.	AUM's
Burlington Northern	630	5 (dry meadow)	3
Other private	480	18 (powerline)	13
U.S. Forest Service	7300	458	234
			*250

*Estimate, subject to change during monitoring period.

B. Management System

A two pasture system will be used. Cattle will be turned onto the range in Gardiner pasture and then moved to Cusick pasture. Without the use of added fences, salting and herding will be used to manage cattle. With the limited number of available AUM's in Gardiner pasture, this sytem will essentially be a season long use of Cusick pasture.

CUSSICK - GARDINER

C. Range Improvements

1. Existing Range Improvements

a. Heavy duty steel cattle guard on Cusick Creek Road 3128 at Section line of 14/23, T34N, R43E. FS

b. Drift fence, 0.6 miles long connecting to cattle guard Section 14, T34N, R43E. NORTON

c. 0.1 mile drift fence on power line on allotment boundary with Ruby Creek, NE¼, NW¼, Section 27, T35N, R43E, and a wooden cattle guard on road under powerline. DRIVER

d. Heavy duty steel cattle guard on Gardiner Creek Road #3100436, SE¼, SW¼, Section 1, T34N, R43E. C-5

e. Drift fence 0.3 miles and electric drive-through gate on road #2600441, SE¼, NW¼ Section 3, T34N, R43E. Driver.

2. Needed Range Improvements

a. Replace electric gate in SE¼, NW¼, Section 3, T34N, R43E with a cattle guard. This may entail moving up the road 200 yards to have an adequate cattle guard location. This will involve additional fence building to tie into existing drift fence.

IV. MONITORING

A. Vegetation and Soil

1. Range Readiness

The range is generally expected to be ready around June 1. Indicators used in determining range readiness are:

Kentucky Bluegrass	panicle partially opened
Red Top	in the boot
Dandelion	leafase developed, full bloom
Service berry	in bloom
Snowberry	fully leafed, budded

2. Soil Readiness

Sites that are normally dry should be fairly dry and firm. Wet meadows should have most of the area dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying its cover.

3. Production Utilization Studies

There are three (3) key areas that will be used for production utilization studies and range readiness. They are:

Along Cusick Creek, NE¼, SE¼, Section 10, T34N, R43E.

Under the powerline, SE¼, NE¼, Section 3, T34N, R43E.

Meadow north of Parker Lake, SE¼, SW¼, Section 34, T35N, R43E.

Permanent Transects C7-T1, NW, SE, Section 28, T35N, R43E and C8-T1 NE, SW, Section 10, T34N, R43E will be read every five years.

Cattle will be moved when proper use on key species is reached.

Key Species	Proper Use
Orchardgrass	50%
Kentucky Bluegrass	70%, moist meadow 60%, dry meadow
Red Top	70%, moist meadow 60%, dry meadow

4. Noxious Weeds

Location of spotted and diffuse Knapweed, Canadian thistle, dalmation toadflax, houndstongue, plumeless thistle, oxeye daisy, or other weeds that are a concern in the range management program will be noted on a District weed map. Areas which require herbicide treatment will be included in the Forest's noxious weed control program. Areas with oxeye daisy problems should be fertilized three consecutive years with 85 lbs. of nitrogen per acre for control.

B. Livestock Management

1. Salt and Supplement Locations

Salt will be placed in a box or other structure off the ground in locations agreed upon by the Forest Service prior to the on date of cattle.

2. Identification of Cattle

Cattle will have ear tags that will have an identifying number printed on them.

3. Cattle Count

All cattle will be counted on the range prior to cattle being on the range.

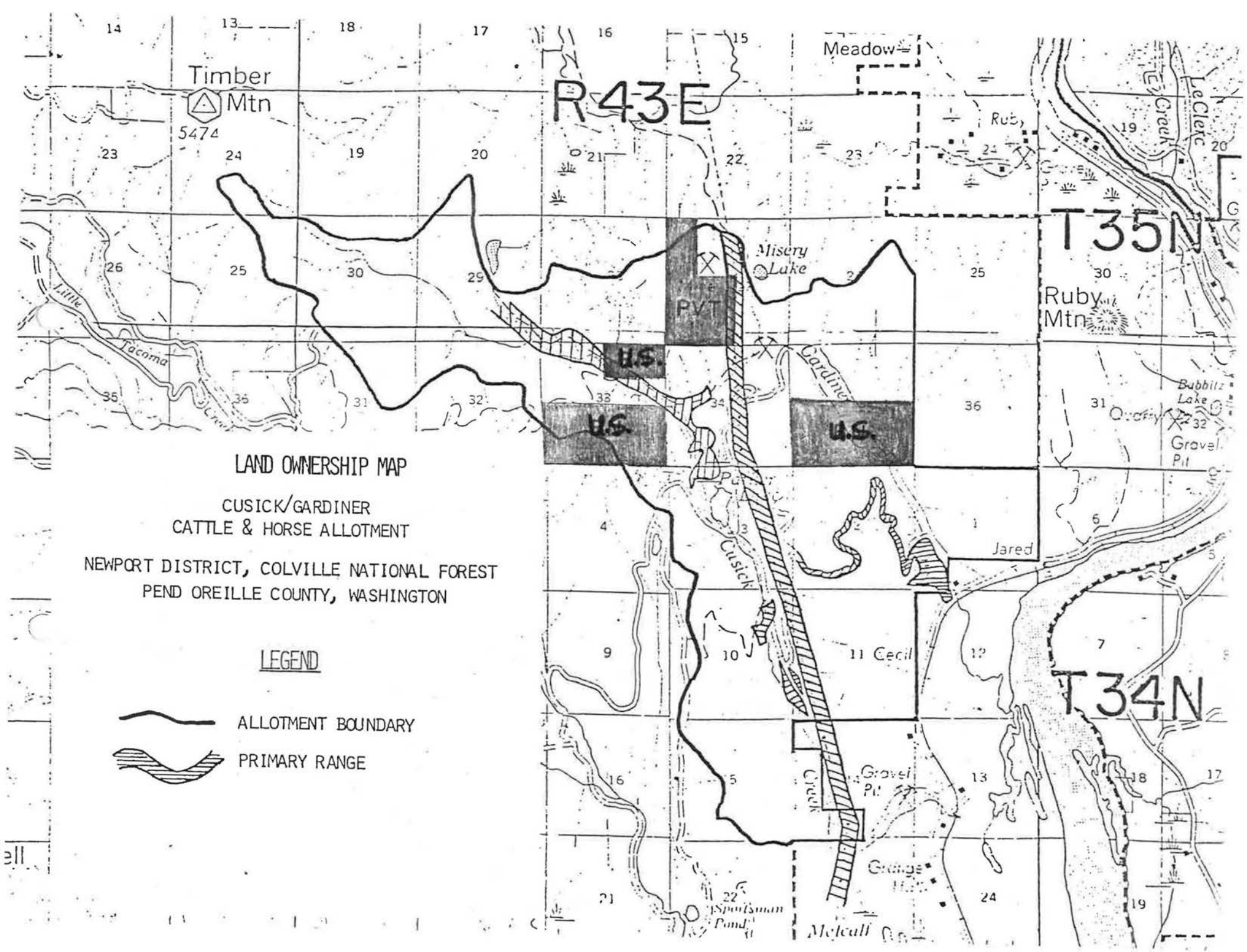
4. Annual Management Plan

An Annual Management Plan will be written yearly for this allotment. The Forest Service will prepare this document.

C. Structural Improvements

1. Condition and Maintenance

Twice yearly checks for condition and maintenance on structural improvements will be made prior to the cattle on date and after the off date to see that improvements are ready for winter.



LAND OWNERSHIP MAP

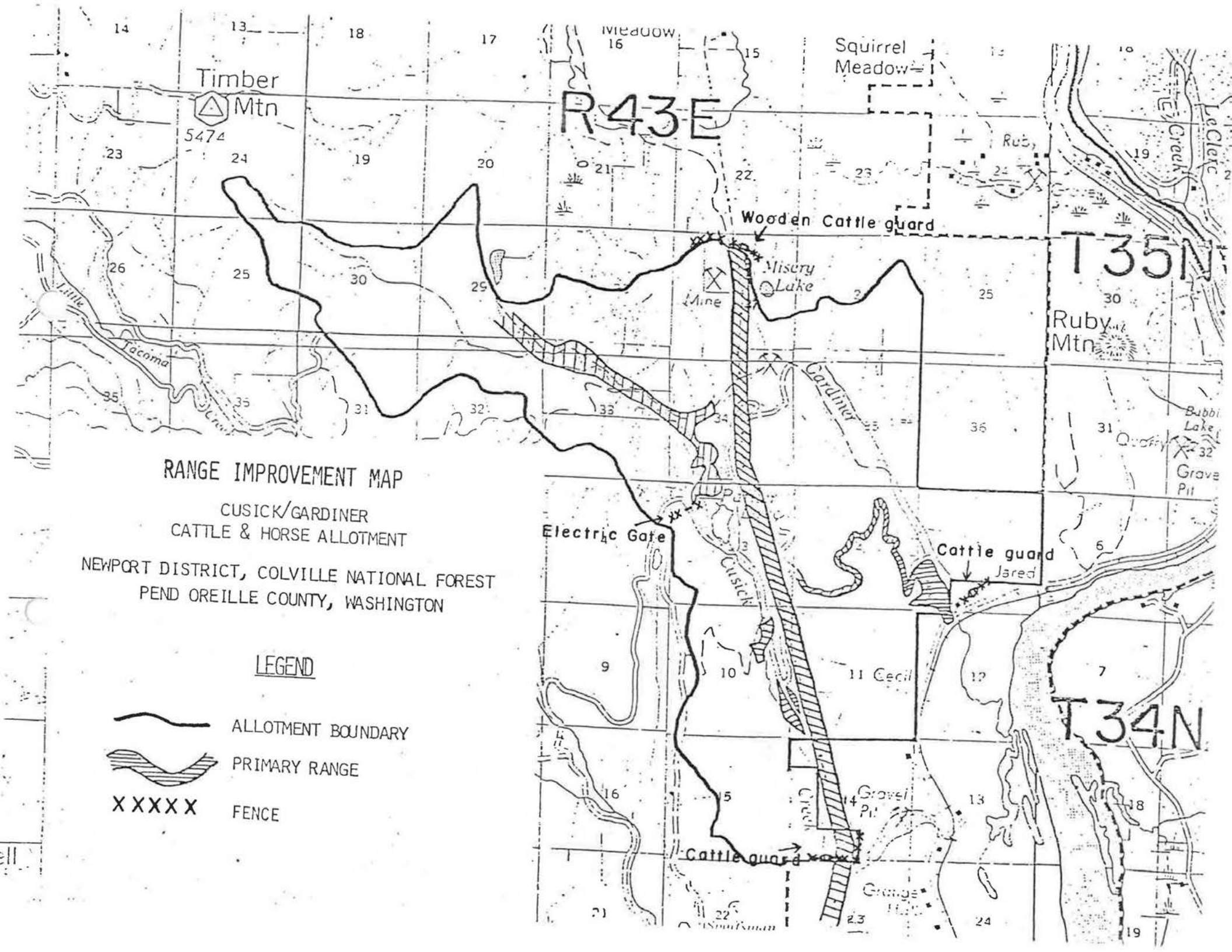
CUSICK/GARDINER
CATTLE & HORSE ALLOTMENT

NEWPORT DISTRICT, COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST
PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

LEGEND

ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY

PRIMARY RANGE


Timber Mtn
5474
R43E
Squirrel Meadow
Wooden Cattle guard
T35N
Misery Lake
Mine
Ruby Mtn
Tacoma
Gardiner
Bubbi Lake
Grave Pit
Electric Gate
Cattle guard
Jared
Cusick
Cecil
T34N
Gravel Pit
Cattle guard
Grange
RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAP
CUSICK/GARDINER
CATTLE & HORSE ALLOTMENT
NEWPORT DISTRICT, COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST
PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON
LEGEND
ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY
PRIMARY RANGE
XXXXX FENCE